



## The Physician's BOOKSHELF

**THE CARE OF THE GERIATRIC PATIENT—Second Edition**—Edited by E. V. Cowdry, Ph.D., Sc.D.(Hon.), F.R.M.S.(Hon.), Professor Emeritus of Anatomy, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.; Director of Research, Scientific Associates, Inc., St. Louis, Mo. The C. V. Mosby Co., 3207 Washington Blvd., St. Louis 3, Mo., 1963. 566 pages, \$11.85.

This is a volume of some 23 essays and reports on different aspects of the care of the geriatric patient. With more than 16 million Americans 65 years or over, and with such people generally needing more care than the young, a book on this subject is timely. The essays or chapters vary widely in their worth. Some, such as that on Medical Aspects of Geriatric Care by Paul Starr and Cardiovascular Aspects by Paul Dudley White are excellent. The chapter on Nutritional Aspects by Bavetta and Nimni is very sound and helpful. There are several chapters which contain quite a bit of reference material which can be of aid to the physician wanting information about institutional care for the chronically ill as well as the aged, about rehabilitation and about nursing care in the hospital and in the home. And, finally, there are a few chapters which the reader would be wise to skip as being a waste of time.

The reviewer is bothered by the bias which runs through much of this book. It tends to put a wall around the aged person. It emphasizes the difference between the very old and the young. It does little to get at the cause or the beginning of these differences but simply assumes that they are there. Furthermore, several of the authors advocate strongly the view that the care of old people should be in the hands of a specialist in old age, or a geriatrician. If one accepts such a premise he will look more favorably on this book than the present reviewer.

EDGAR WAYBURN, M.D.

**DISORDERS OF LANGUAGE—Ciba Foundation Symposium**—Edited by A.V.S. De Reuck, M.Sc., D.I.C., A.R.C.S., and Maevae O'Connor, B.A. Little, Brown and Company, Boston, Massachusetts, 1964. 356 pages, \$11.00.

The Symposium is a compilation of articles and discussions by a roster of the famous, gently and adroitly guided by the inimitable hand of the chairman, Dr. MacDonald Critchley. The contributors represent many nations and many disciplines: neurophysiologists, psychologists, phoneticians, linguists, a philosopher and an expert of information theory. The general trend is to bring forth more information on both sides of the simple equation—"Disturbed brain function produces disturbed language." Thus although most of the articles deal primarily with aphasic language disturbances, the demented, schizophrenic and hysteric language are also briefly discussed.

The aura of chaos still exists in the study of brain localization (such as Head found one generation ago); however the chaos seems to be resolving and certain localizations are now agreed upon. Nevertheless, recovery of the functions of speech seems to depend more on the integrative functions of the brain rather than the purely localized ones. The old, and seemingly ever new problem of cerebral speech dominance is again discussed with

demonstrations that some adults have bilateral representation of language. A parallel classification of different types of aphasias with corresponding brain areas is attempted.

The anatomy of the speech areas of the brain is thus clearly dissected and discussed by the anatomists and their colleagues. The linguists in turn attempt a dissection of the language into its minute components. Several chapters are thus devoted to specific language disturbances as noted by changes in phonemes, syllables, words, pairing of words up to rather complicated syntactic analyses. Some mention is also made of word frequency, halts, expletives, etc. The relationship of language disturbances to general intelligence and behavior produced lively discussion without clear cut conclusions.

Both groups of researchers have compiled an admirable body of knowledge, but the relationship between the two fields leaves too many steps unknown, and these are only too briefly and too speculatively discussed. It is notable that Dr. Critchley states "that we have heard little about the premorbid personality and the premorbid verbal equipment." The individual as represented by his language "an integral aspect of mentation and a very personal, highly individual and fundamental aspect of behavior" continues to remain somewhat mysterious or is entirely left out.

Despite its shortcomings the book is a valuable one especially for those in contact with patients with language disturbances. The bibliography is helpful albeit almost staggering. The clear literary style peppered with historical anecdotes by Dr. Critchley is a pleasure indeed.

HILDE S. SCHLESINGER, M.D.

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**THE SOLITARY PULMONARY NODULE**—John D. Steele, M.D., Clinical Professor of Surgery, University of California, Los Angeles, California; Chief of Surgery, Veterans Administration Hospital, San Fernando, Calif.; Chairman, Veterans Administration-Armed Forces Co-operative Study on Resected Asymptomatic Pulmonary Nodules. With a Foreword by Leo G. Rigler, M.D., Professor of Radiology, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Ill., 1964. 226 pages, \$12.00.

This is a monograph on the radiographic appearance of the solitary pulmonary nodule as observed in a group of patients studied in the Veterans Administration and the Armed Forces Hospitals of this country. A total of 1034 cases of pulmonary nodules was submitted in the study; 887 nodules occurring in males were selected for review; these included 280 primary carcinomas. In the work the author refers to the publication of Holin who showed in Cleveland that an unselected survey of the general populace yielded solitary nodules of which 3% proved to be due to primary carcinoma; the author's work shows 31% due to this disease, and is accordingly a relatively selected group.

The author reports that 500 of the patients had cytologic examinations of sputum and bronchial washings for tumor cells; 5 cases were reported as positive for "tumor" cells; 3 of these revealed carcinomas and 2 granulomas.

The histopathologic diagnosis in the 280 primary carcinomas was: squamous cell, 99, undifferentiated, 41;